

**Remarks:**

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated June 28, 2005. Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner objected to claim 24 and indicated that this claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 12 [11?] and 27 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and rejected claims 1-10, 12-23, 25, and 36 [26?] as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants traverse these rejections, contending that the rejected claims are neither anticipated nor obvious.

Nevertheless, to expedite the issuance of a patent, and to more particularly point out and distinctly claim aspects of the invention that applicants would like to patent now, applicants have amended claims 21 and 24, and have canceled claim 26, without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue canceled claim 26 in original or amended form at a later time. Furthermore, applicants have presented arguments showing that claims 1-23, 25, and 27 are neither taught nor suggested by any of the references of record. Accordingly, in view of the amendments above, and the remarks below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and allowance of the pending claims.

A. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 12 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,681,312 to Harvey ("Harvey"). Applicants traverse the rejection. However, applicants believe the Examiner intended to reject independent claim 11, rather than dependent claim 12, because (a) claim 11 is not rejected explicitly in the Office action under a cited section of 35 U.S.C. and (b) claim

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12 is the only claim that is rejected twice. Accordingly, to expedite prosecution, applicants have assumed in the following discussion that claim 11 was rejected over Harvey. Neither claim 11 nor claim 27 is anticipated by Harvey for the reasons set forth below.

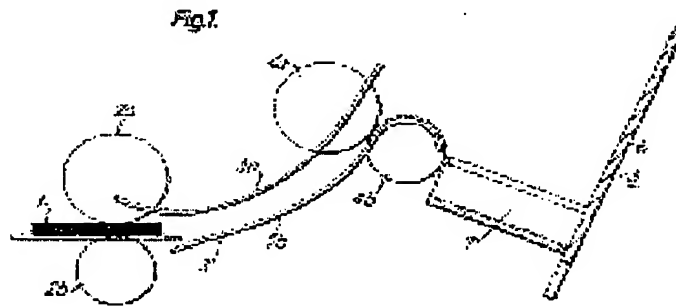
Claim 11

Claim 11 is directed to a media processing apparatus:

11. (Original) A media processing apparatus, comprising:  
a rotatable member; and  
a resilient member connected to the rotatable member and configured to engage a trailing edge of a sheet medium and lift the trailing edge upward and over the rotatable member as the rotatable member rotates.

Harvey does not teach or suggest every element of claim 11. For example, Harvey does not teach or suggest a resilient member "configured to engage a trailing edge of a sheet medium and lift the trailing edge upward and over the rotatable member."

Harvey relates to a sheet stacker for a photocopier. The sheet stacker is shown in Figure 1:



The sheet stacker has a pair of nip rolls 4a, 4b that receive a sheet 1 from nip rollers 2a, 2b. Nip rolls 4a, 4b advance the sheet upward toward an output tray 5 (col. 3, lines 27-39). Harvey discloses one of nip rolls 4a, 4b being resilient, for example, nip roll 4b being formed of a sponge construction so that compression of roll 4b allows

nip rolls 4a, 4b to receive and advance a single sheet or a stack of sheets (col. 4, lines 45-53).

Harvey does not teach or suggest that either of nip rolls 4a or 4b is "configured to engage a trailing edge of a sheet medium and lift the trailing edge upward and over the rotatable member," as recited by claim 11. Harvey discloses nip rolls 4a, 4b with cylindrical surfaces. Sheets that advance through these nip rolls will travel with their faces disposed tangentially to the cylindrical surfaces, such that the trailing edge of each sheet cannot be engaged by the nip rolls when the sheet exits the nip rolls. Consistent with this assertion, Harvey discloses that "the sheet 1 is ejected from the rolls 4a, 4b" (underline added here for emphasis), that is, forcefully expelled or thrown out such that "the sheet 1 eventually comes to rest ... on support face 6 as its kinetic energy is removed and then the sheet slides ... down the support face 6" (col. 3, lines 54-64). Accordingly, the sheets are not lifted over nip roll 4b to reach the output tray. In particular, the sheets apparently exit the nip rolls with a momentum sufficient for ejection of the sheets from the nips rolls and subsequent airborne travel of the trailing edge of the sheets over nip roll 4b without any engagement between the trailing edge and nip roll 4b. The sheet stacker of Harvey thus does not and cannot engage and lift the trailing edge of the sheet medium as recited by claim 11.

Therefore, Harvey does not teach or every element of claim 11. Claim 11 thus should be allowed. Claims 12-20, which depend from claim 11, also should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

Claim 27

Claim 27 is directed to a printing apparatus:

27. (Original) A printing apparatus, comprising:  
means for placing colorant on a sheet medium;  
means for moving the sheet medium along an upward path by contact  
of a face of the sheet medium with a roller; and  
means for lifting a trailing edge of the sheet medium upward and then  
over the roller.

Harvey does not teach or suggest every element of claim 27. For example, Harvey does not teach or suggest "means for lifting a trailing edge of the sheet medium upward and then over the roller." Instead, as described above in relation to claim 11, Harvey discloses an apparatus that ejects a trailing edge of a sheet such that the trailing edge is thrown over, rather than being lifted over, a nip roll. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 27 should be allowed.

B. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-10, 12-23, 25, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Harvey in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,488,279 to Fukuda et al. ("Fukuda"). (Applicants believe that "36" is a typographical error and should be "26" because there is no claim 36 and also because claim 26 was not rejected explicitly under any section of 35 U.S.C.) Applicants traverse the rejection, contending that the cited references alone or in combination do not teach or suggest the claimed invention. However, to expedite prosecution and to more particularly point out subject matter that applicants would like to patent now, applicants have amended claim 21 and canceled claim 26. None of claims 1-10, 12-23, 25, or 26 is obvious over the cited references for the reasons set forth below.

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Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a method of processing sheet media:

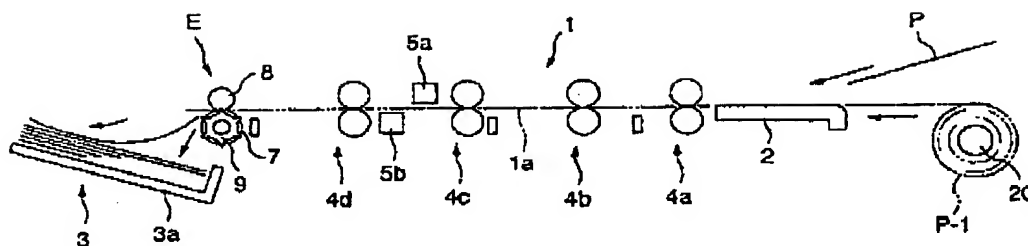
1. (Original) A method of processing sheet media, comprising:  
moving a sheet medium upward by contact of a face of the sheet  
medium with a roller; and  
carrying a trailing edge of the sheet medium upward and then over the  
roller.

Neither Harvey nor Fukuda, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests every element of claim 1. For example, these references do not teach or suggest "carrying a trailing edge of the sheet medium upward and then over the roller."

Harvey does not teach or suggest "carrying a trailing edge." The term "carrying" generally involves moving an object while the object is supported. Accordingly, Harvey does not teach or suggest carrying because Harvey does not teach or suggest moving the trailing edge of the sheet medium upward and then over the roller while the trailing edge is supported. Instead, Harvey discloses sheets that are ejected from nip rolls for unsupported travel of each sheet's trailing edge to an output tray, as described above in relation to claim 11.

Fukuda also does not teach or suggest carrying a trailing edge upward and then over the roller. Fukuda relates to a "discharge mechanism" for forcibly pushing sheet media out of rollers. Figure 1 shows the discharge mechanism ("E") in the context of a scanner:

FIG.1



Paper ("P" or "P-1") travels through discharge rollers 7, 8 and then is discharged by a profiling pusher 9 to tray 3 disposed below the discharge roller.

The Examiner asserted that Fukuda discloses "upward then downward carrying" in Figure 1 (see page 3, second paragraph, line 5, of the Office action dated June 28, 2005). Applicants strongly disagree. Fukuda discloses discharge rollers that are arranged only for horizontal advancement of paper and then horizontal and downward discharge of the paper by the discharge mechanism. The discharge mechanism of Fukuda thus does not carry a trailing edge upward and then over the roller, as recited by claim 1.

In summary, neither Harvey nor Fukuda, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests every element of claim 1. Claim 1 thus should be allowed. Claims 2-10, which depend from claim 1, also should be allowed for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

#### Claim 21

The Examiner rejected claim 21 as being obvious over Harvey in view of Fukuda. Applicants traverse this rejection. However, to expedite prosecution and to more particularly point out aspects of the invention that applicants want to patent now, applicants have amended claim 21 as follows:

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21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for displacing a sheet of print medium from a direction of movement of the print medium produced by a roller, comprising:

a body configured to be connected to the roller for rotation therewith;

and

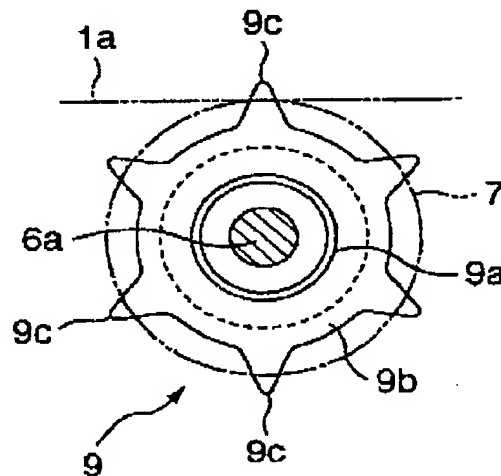
at least one resilient finger connected to the body and configured to be deflected toward the body, and generally away from the direction of movement, by contact with a face of the print medium to permit movement of the medium along the path and also being configured to engage a trailing edge of the print medium to carry the trailing edge away from the path as the resilient finger rotates,

wherein the at least one resilient finger extends non-radially from the body.

Support for this amendment to claim 21 is included in the application, for example, on page 7, lines 14-15.

Neither Harvey nor Fukuda teaches or suggests a resilient finger that extends non-radially from the body. Harvey does not teach any kind of resilient finger extending in any manner from a body. Fukuda discloses a profiling pusher 9 with a body portion 9b and projections 9c extending radially from the body portion:

FIG.4B



Therefore, claim 21 should be allowed. Claims 22, 23, and 25, which depend from claim 21, also should be allowed, for at least the same reasons as claim 21.

C. Claim 24

The Examiner indicated that claim 24 would be allowable if amended to include all the limitations of claim 21. Applicants have amended claim 24 accordingly. Claim 24 thus should be allowed.

D. Conclusion

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner K. Bower, Group Art Unit 3653, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (703) 872-9306 on September 22, 2005.



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